

THE OPENING OF CONGRESS

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Washington, Dec. 2.—The city is again taking on animation. Many of the hotels have been remodeled and prepared for the guests of the coming season. Pennsylvania avenue is waking from the slumber it went into after congress adjourned, and its broad walks are becoming more crowded each day as the time approaches for the next session of the nation's lawmakers to convene. The capitol building has just been released from the hands of the small army of painters, decorators and scrubwomen who have been at work giving the big structure its annual overhauling. The odor of paint and varnish still lingers in the building and is most perceptible in the chambers of the representatives and the senate.

The hotel corridors are again brightening up after the summer months, and senators and congressmen are returning in veritable droves to their fields of labor after their vacations. Some of them are here to make their last fight, while others return with the knowledge that they will serve in congress for at least one more term. The recent election in several states will in a great measure change the personnel of the house of representatives and the senate, and several of the men who have become well known at the national capital will retire from active service in

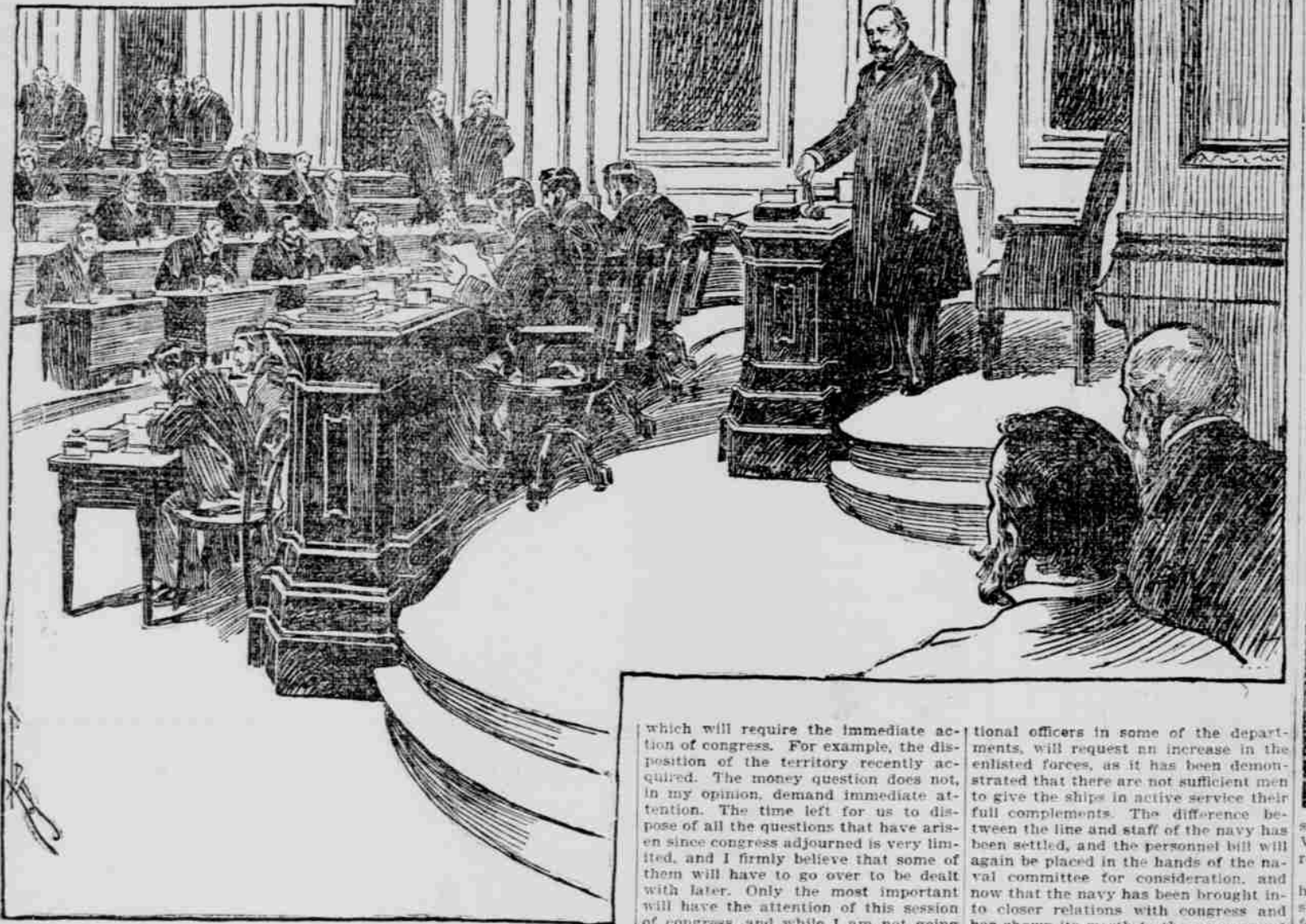
a full knowledge of the responsibilities that will rest on them. Few, however, are disposed to discuss any of the matters which will in all probability be brought up for discussion.

The most important of the subjects which congress will have to deal with will be the report of the peace commission now sitting in Paris and the form of government to be given to the new territory that has come under the protection of the government as a result of the Hispano-American war and of annexation. Hawaii will come in for goodly attention, and already many of the prominent men interested in these islands have made preparations to appear before the committee which will have these matters under its care. It is expected that the form of government to be given to these islands will be settled before congress adjourns, and also that the officials who will administer it will have been appointed and confirmed by that time.

While the peace commission in Paris primarily settles the final disposition of the Philippine islands, it is expected

He spoke of the war tariff as one of these, and requested that his name be withheld. He said: "It is my opinion that neither the money question nor the war tariff will be touched at this session, although the latter measure was enacted only to increase the revenues made necessary for carrying on hostilities. As is well known, the war cost the government a considerable sum of money, and the receipts from the tariff have not been sufficient as yet to reimburse it for its outlay. Then, again, there will be many other matters of greater importance to be taken up

presented. One of these, it is expected, will contain a clause asking congress to revive the grade of vice admiral, so that it may be bestowed upon Rear Admiral Dewey as a recognition of his services during the war and since. It is expected that an increase will be asked in officers and men for both the army and navy. It is stated that the army will ask for an increase bringing its standing up to 100,000 men and officers. It is claimed that this is necessary in order to properly protect the new possessions. The navy, besides asking for addi-



SCENE IN THE SENATE CHAMBER, WHERE OUR COLONIAL POLICY WILL BE DETERMINED.

the government when congress adjourns in March next.

The coming session of congress promises to be one of the liveliest and most interesting in the history of the nation. There will be many intricate and knotty questions brought before it to be unraveled and settled. These congressmen and senators who have returned to the city have come back seemingly with

that their government will come in for considerable of the discussion, and that a form of government for Porto Rico will be provided for and the mode of procedure in Cuba will also be settled. One congressman whom I happened to meet at the capitol was inclined to discuss some of the more important matters that would, in his opinion, not be considered at this session of congress.

which will require the immediate action of congress. For example, the disposition of the territory recently acquired. The money question does not, in my opinion, demand immediate attention. The time left for us to dispose of all the questions that have arisen since congress adjourned is very limited, and I firmly believe that some of them will have to go over to be dealt with later. Only the most important will have the attention of this session of congress, and while I am not going to discuss them with you I will say that among them will be the reorganization of the army and the navy, the disposition of the new territory and very possibly some action in reference to the canal scheme between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans."

In army and navy circles the chief topic of conversation is the reorganization of the two branches of the service, especially with reference to promotions. Both branches are in hopes that congress will treat them liberally, and to this end there will be several bills

tional officers in some of the departments, will request an increase in the enlisted forces, as it has been demonstrated that there are not sufficient men to give the ships in active service their full complements. The difference between the line and staff of the navy has been settled, and the personnel bill will again be placed in the hands of the naval committee for consideration, and now that the navy has been brought in to closer relations with congress and has shown its worth to the government there is little doubt among those interested in the bill of its success. A number of senators and congressmen who have been spoken to regarding this measure have expressed themselves in favor of it.

The canal bill promises to be of considerable interest, and already several of the representatives of both the Nicaragua and Panama companies are making arrangements to address the committees of the house and senate regarding their projected scheme.

WILLIAM J. RUDOLPH.

A MINISTER WOULD BE AN EARL

Another claimant has appeared and is actively engaged in asserting his rights against all comers to the earldom of Caithness, England, which it is claimed, is worth about \$50,000 a year. The new claimant is the Rev. John Sinclair, minister of the parish of Kinloch-Rannoch, in Perthshire. He claims to have state and other evidence to show that the present holder of the title, who is a farmer in the United States, has no shadow of right to the



position, as he comes from another branch of the family. There seems to be no doubt that Rev. Mr. Sinclair is the head of the oldest line of the famous house of Sinclair. The only point open to dispute is whether he is the "lawful" head—that is, whether all of his ancestors were born in wedlock. The evidence recently brought to light seems to show that they were.

Alexander Sinclair, the ninth earl of Caithness, who died in 1563 at the age of 51, is the cause of most of the trouble which is to be settled now. The matter has been in the courts almost ever since the day the old earl died, and the earldom has changed hands many times. The last of the earls died in 1889.

A WEDDING IN HIGH LIFE.

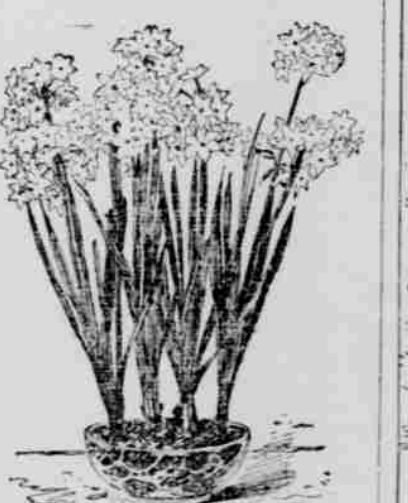


The creme de la creme of Boston and Washington society is all agog just now over the splendid preparations that are being made for the wedding of Miss Marie Mattingly of the Capital City and Robert Treat Paine, Jr., of Boston. Both the bride and her fiancé have blue blood in their veins, being descendants of Robert Treat.

The wedding, which will take place on Dec. 7, will be a veritable beauty show, not only because of the profusion of flowers that will be used in the decorations, but also because the bride and the young women who have been selected to act as her bridesmaids are girls who are famed for their beauty and position in society.

"FAIRY FLOWERS" THE LATEST FAD.

The cultivation of "fairy flowers" is the pleasing fad of many people who like to have beautiful growing plants in their homes during the bleak winter months. These plants are brought from China and other Asiatic countries as



bulbs and simply require to be placed in a bowl or other deep dish among a quantity of white stones. Water is then poured into the dish so as to partly cover the bulbs. They are then put away for a few days in some dark, warm place, such as the shelf of a closet. In a very short time the bulbs send up beautiful slender green shoots, which in a few weeks bring forth sweet smelling flowers, resembling very much the jonquil.

The raising of "fairy flowers" has been very popular in England and other European countries for many years, but the fad is a comparatively new one in this country, though, when people find out how easy they are to raise and how beautifully they embellish and perfume the whole house, they will surely become very popular.

Probably the oldest operative treaty is the concordat of Vienna, which has governed the relations of the Catholic church in Germany since 1122.

oughly worn out and unstrung, he spends a day in bed. This treatment, he declares, does him more good than a week at the seaside.

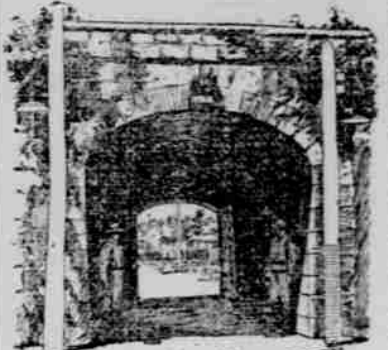
Vienna has a bicycling female monk, at the botanical gardens in the Prater.

The army of Germany boasts eight women colonels.

All students of the laboratory courses

ONE OF MANILA'S PEST HOLE PRISONS.

One of the first acts of General Merritt after the capture of Manila was to open the prisons and set free all the political offenders incarcerated in them. The records were then carefully gone over, and it was found that many pris-



oners who were entered as criminals were in reality men who were behind the bars for political offenses.

Meanwhile the condition of these men and women was improved as much as was possible under the circumstances. According to the prevailing Spanish custom, there was no thought of sanitation when the prisons were erected, and the years of use had made them frightful pest holes. Some of the prisoners were found in cells reeking with dampness and filth and in many cases were several inches deep in putrid mud and water.

The illustration shows the entrance to one of the prisons, and one can easily imagine how fearfully the inmates must have suffered in such a structure.

POSTER MADE BY A WOMAN.

The poster craze is still just as rampant in England as it ever was; indeed the mania seems to be gathering greater numbers of devotees under its yellow and green banner now than ever before. They have lately been holding a number of competitions over there in which posters such as the late Aubrey Beardsley in his most delicious ravings never put on canvas were exhibited.

A competition that attracted widespread interest all over the British Isles was recently held for the best poster for a dog show. Many women entered and won prizes. One of the most unique de-



signs submitted was from the brush of Violet Thurston Kirke, G. C. S., which received honorable mention.

Miss Kirke's composition has been highly praised by experts, who say that she will become famous in her line in a few years.

THE PECULIAR BEDOUIN WOMEN.



The recent journeyings of the Kaiser in Palestine have drawn attention to the people who inhabit those historical Biblical lands, especially the many tribes of Bedouins who dwell in the deserts surrounding the plains of Galilee and the valley of the river Jordan.

It is said by travelers that these roving Bedouins never wash, which lapses may be due to the scarcity of water in those regions. The women, despite that and exposure to a tropical sun and the hard lives they lead, are often comely and picturesque when young, though the older ones are anything but attractive. They have dark eyes and glossy black hair, and they are as a rule short, slight and wonderfully erect. Their dress is designed more for comfort and ease than for appearance. It invariably consists of a big, loose blouse of cotton stuff, dyed dark indigo, with immense pointed sleeves. When new, this garment trails on the ground, and its owner looks almost dignified, but hard wear soon reduces it to a state of dilapidation and its wearer to an appearance of slovenliness.

The women are very fond, like all orientals, of jewelry and wear all they can get.

Generally speaking, their lives are happier than those of the settled tribes. Polygamy is not common among the wanderers, for the Bedouin regards his wife with a good deal of consideration and respect.

OYSTER WOMEN OF ZEELAND.



Oyster catching is not left to the men alone. Women in many instances have found it a profitable occupation. In fact, this is true to such an extent that in some parts of the world they have almost a complete monopoly of the trade. This is particularly so with the women of Zeeland, and while they have a monopoly, the methods employed to procure the bivalves are crude and the work is necessarily slow.

Zeeland is the southwest province of the Netherlands. It is composed of the islands of North and South Beveland, Tholen, Burveland and Schouwen. They lie in and about the delta of the Scheldt and have an area of a little more than 400 square miles, with a population of about 200,000. The land is just a little above the level of the sea, and consequently there is a large area of water from which the oysters are taken. The women who occupy their time in working the oyster beds present a rather interesting appearance. They dress in accordance with the requirements of their work and may be seen in large numbers along the water front with wicker baskets, which, with long pronged rakes, complete their outfit.

The work is slow, and but few oysters are taken at a time. They wear rubber boots reaching to their thighs. The headgear consists of a large white turban, and the bodies are very colored and reach to the top of the turban. The sleeves of the bodices are short, allowing the bare arms perfect freedom.

THE DIGNIFIED LITTLE SEA HORSE.

Among the strange things to be seen in the New York aquarium are the sea horses. These dignified little fellows attract as much attention as some of the larger freaks. They are well protected from the attacks of other fish by a mailed body, with 12 rings around it and 36 on the tail, which is used to hug on to seaweed and other objects with which they come into contact. They



swim vertically, with their heads held high, giving them the appearance of high bred horses. Their mouths are long, and the eyes, which have a wild appearance, can be moved independently of each other. They live on seaweed and the small insects that are found among marine growth. They have but one fin, that on the back midway between the head and tail. The pouch in which the male carries the eggs until they are hatched opens at the commencement of the tail. When not swimming along the tank, they sit motionless, seemingly in deep thought, until some commotion is made in the water by the larger fish, when they immediately seek the thicker sea growth in which to hide. They are very timid and become frightened easily. Altogether they are among the queerest fish in the aquarium.

To Lessen Dry Heat in a House.

To lessen the dry heat in houses heated by a furnace some persons set a small pan, which is kept filled with water, on the feeding pipe through which the hot air enters the room. This is usually possible only where the register is in the side wall. Occasionally, however, if it is in the floor the pipe makes a turn just beneath that register a firm resting place for the pans.

FACTS OF INTEREST.

One of the latest journalistic ventures in Japan is a newspaper devoted to the interests of laboring men.

The Bank of France is four times as large as the Bank of England.

The time seems to be not far distant when English will be the language of

the people inhabiting the entire valley of the Nile.

Statistics show that the consumption of hay in the large cities is as large now as it ever has been.

The Hindus consider their dead as sacred and do not allow them to be

handed by alien hands, the nearest male relative—son, father or brother—preparing the body for burial, and if there be none of these relatives a son is adopted by the family for the purpose.

The Scottish Sabbath Protection society is engaged in combating the Sunday opening of the Tower of London.

When J. M. Barrie is feeling thor-

oughly worn out and unstrung, he spends a day in bed. This treatment, he declares, does him more good than a week at the seaside.

Vienna has a bicycling female monk, at the botanical gardens in the Prater.

The army of Germany boasts eight women colonels.

All students of the laboratory courses

in the University of Heidelberg are required to take out life insurance policies.

Thirty years ago there were only two dozen railway companies known to shippers. Now there are over 1,000.

The French language, it appears, is better adapted to the purpose of the telephone than the English. It is stated that the large number of syllables or

syllables syllables in English renders it a less easy and accurate means of communication.

About 20,000 tons of ice have been consumed in London this season, 100,000 tons in cases of last year.

A monument to Tullius has been unveiled in the botanical gardens at Antwerp.

The house of Capet has the longest